

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

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State Dept. review completed

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14 July 1967

Supplement 3 to "The Situation in the Congo" (dated 13 July)

1. Evacuation. Six US citizens--women and children from the Unevangelized Field Mission--were among the 88 refugees evacuated from Kisangani on today's first Red Cross flight. More than half the people on this flight were Congolese. Nine evacuees, including the two US Army NCOs and one other American, are being flown out in a USAF C-120 which was due in Kinshasa at 1:35 p.m. EDT. According to latest reports, there are four Americans still in Kisangani, but they may be on the second Red Cross flight later today.

2. Situation in Kisangani. Security in Kisangani apparently has broken down, with both army units and civilians engaging in wholesale looting. Most of the remaining Europeans, numbering perhaps 50, are gathered in the city's principal hotel and probably are being subjected to considerable harassment by the Congolese.

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3. Military. There is still no word on the location of the rebels. The embassy in Kinshasa speculates that they may pause for some time at Punia, which for several years was the base of operations of their leader, Major Schramm. It believes they may try to negotiate their way out of the Congo from there, making sparing use of their two T-28s for reconnaissance and saving them for negotiating purposes. The US evacuees from Kisangani report that the rebels recruited large numbers of Congolese during their stay there and that most of these left with the mercenaries. The rebels are said to have plenty of ammunition and transport.

4. Congolese-Belgian Relations. The events of the past week have left a legacy of bitterness in Brussels, and Foreign Minister Harmel told Ambassador Knight that the question is "not whether to disengage but how to disengage." Harmel discounted the current talk of a mass pull-out, but he asserted that the only policy acceptable to the Belgian populace would be one of disengagement as soon as it could be accomplished without unnecessarily endangering Belgian lives.

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